

REMARKS

By this amendment, claim 1 is amended to more particularly define the invention and clearly distinguish over the prior art of records. Claim 9 has been previously cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1-8 are pending in the application, of which claims 1, 5 and 8 are independent.

Applicant respectfully submits that the above amendments do not add new matter to the application and are fully supported by the specification. In view of the above Amendments and the following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections for the reasons discussed below.

Allowed/Allowable Claims

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 5, 6 and 8 are allowed. While Applicant agrees these claims are patentable over the cited references, Applicant does not agree that patentability resides in each feature exactly as expressed in the claims, nor that each feature is required for patentability of each claim.

Objection to the Drawings

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR §1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Particularly, the Examiner stated that the drawings fail to show the claimed common electrode. This objection is respectfully traversed.

In this response, claim 1 is amended to delete “a common electrode formed on the insulating substrate or another substrate facing the insulating substrate”. Since the common electrode is no longer recited in the claims, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to the drawing.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-4 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 6,469,765 issued to Kim, et al. (“Kim”). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

In this response, independent claim 1 is amended to recite “said shading film is *electrically floating* and overlaps said domain-defining member at least in part”. An example of this claimed feature is shown in Figs. 1-4, in which the gate pattern 21 makes no electrical contact with any other conductive pattern, thereby “electrically floating” as claimed.

In this regard, in the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the counter electrode 24 of Kim corresponds to the claimed shading film. However, as shown in Fig. 3, the “counter electrodes 24 within the respective sub-pixels are connected by a common signal line 210.” (Specification, column 6, lines 66-67). Since the counter electrode 24 is connected to the common signal line 210, the counter electrode 24 is not electrically floating.

Also, if the LCD shown in Fig. 3 of Kim is modified to disrupt the electrical contact between the counter electrode 24 and the common signal line 210, the operation of the LCD device would be altered unsatisfactorily to its intended purpose.

For these reasons, it is submitted that Kim fails to disclose or suggest "said shading film is *electrically floated*". No secondary reference has been introduced to cure the deficiency of Kim. Thus, it is submitted that claim 1 is patentable over Kim. Claims 2-4 and 7 that are dependent from claim 1 would be also patentable at least for the same reasons.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 1-4 and 7.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action and respectfully submits that all of the stated objections and grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,



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